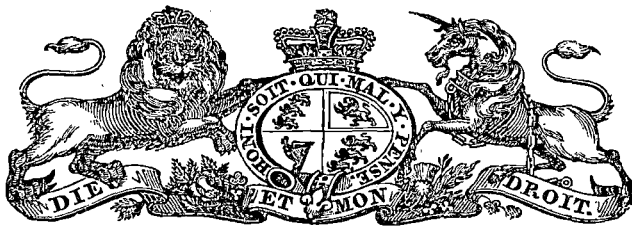


(No. 44.)



1901.

---

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

---

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY:

CORRESPONDENCE.

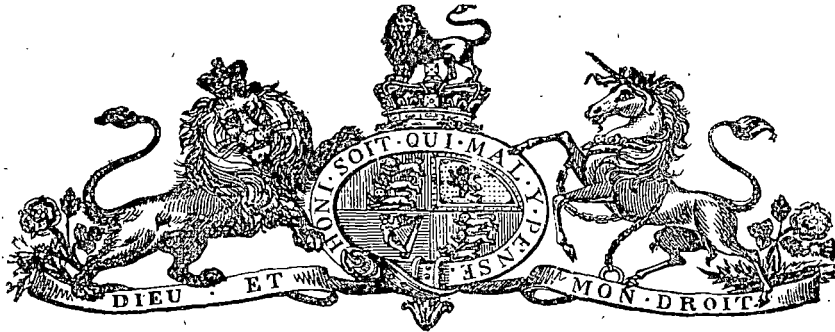
*(In continuation of Paper No. 17, 1900.)*

---

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

Cost of printing—£6 3s. 3d.

(In continuation of Paper No. 17, 1900.)



GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania,  
Westminster Chambers, 5, Victoria-street,  
London, S.W., 4th January, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received from the Railway Construction and Development Company (Tasmania), and paid into the public account of the Colony, at the London and Westminster Bank, a cheque for £2000, being the fourth instalment on account of the construction of the Great Western Railway. A telegram was sent to you on the 3rd instant, asking you to pay that amount to the representative to the company in the Colony.

I have, &c.,

P. O. FYSH, *Agent-General*.

*The Hon. the Premier, &c., Hobart, Tasmania.*

Telegram to the Honourable the Premier, Hobart.

PAY Russell Young £2000.

AGENT-GENERAL.  
4. 1. 1901.

4th January, 1901.

SIR,

I am instructed by the Honourable the Premier to inform you that the following cablegram has this day been received from the Agent-General in London:—

"Pay Russell Young £2000."

The Honourable the Treasurer has been instructed accordingly.

I have, &c.,

FRANK LOVETT, *for Secretary to Premier (absent)*.

RUSSELL YOUNG, *Esq., Hobart.*

4th January, 1901.

SIR,

By direction of the Honourable the Premier, I have the honour to inform you that the following is a correct translation of a cablegram received this day from the Agent-General, dated London, 3rd January, 1901, time 10.54 P.M.:—

"Pay Russell Young £2000."

I have, &c.

FRANK LOVETT, *for Secretary to Premier (absent)*.

*The Honourable the Treasurer.*

London, 9. 2. 1901.

Telegram to the Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

PAY Russell Young £2000.

AGENT-GENERAL.

11th February, 1901.

SIR,

By direction of the Honourable the Premier, I have the honour to inform you that the following is a correct translation of a cablegram received this day from the Agent-General:—

“Pay Russell Young £2000.”

I have, &c.,

GEO. STEWARD, *Secretary to the Premier*

*The Honourable the Treasurer.*

11th February, 1901.

SIR,

I am instructed by the Honourable the Premier to inform you that the following cablegram has this day been received from the Agent-General in London:—

“Pay Russell Young £2000.”

The Honourable the Treasurer has been notified accordingly.

I have, &c.,

GEO. STEWARD, *Secretary to the Premier.*

RUSSELL YOUNG, *Esq., Hobart.*

Telegram to the Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

PAY Russell Young £2000.

AGENT-GENERAL.  
9.3.1901.

8th March, 1901.

THE Honourable the Treasurer is informed that the following cablegram has this day been received from the Agent-General of this State in London:—

“Pay Russell Young £2000.”

GEO. STEWARD, *Secretary to the Premier.*

*The Honourable the Treasurer.*

8th March, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Honourable the Premier, to inform you that the following cablegram has this day been received from the Agent-General of this State in London:—

“Pay Russell Young £2000.”

The Honourable the Treasurer has been notified accordingly.

I have, &c.,

GEO. STEWARD, *Secretary to the Premier.*

RUSSELL YOUNG, *Esq., Solicitor, Hobart.*

*Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania,  
Westminster Chambers, 5, Victoria-street,  
London, S.W., 8th March, 1901.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received from the Railway Construction and Development Company (Tasmania), and paid into the public account of the Colony, at the London and Westminster Bank, a cheque for £2000, being the 6th instalment on account of the Construction of the Great Western Railway. I have this day asked you, by telegraph, to pay that amount to the company's representative in the State.

I have, &c.,

ANDREW CLARKE, *Agent-General.*

*The Honourable the Premier, &c., Hobart, Tasmania.*

*Bank of Australasia Chambers, Elizabeth-street, Hobart, Tasmania,  
11th March, 1901.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 8th March, acquainting me with the fact of your having received a cablegram directing you to pay Mr. Russell Young £2000, and that the Hon. the Treasurer had been notified accordingly.

I have, &c.,

*Secretary to the Premier, Hobart.*

RUSSELL YOUNG.

Telegram for transmission to the Honourable the Premier, Hobart.

PAY Frank Grove £2000.

AGENT-GENERAL.  
2.4.'01.

FOLLOWING cable, received from Agent-General, begins, "Pay Frank Grove two thousand pounds"; cable ends, "Treasury notified accordingly."

GEO. STEWARD, *Secretary to Premier.*  
2.4.'01.

FRANK GROVE, *Esq., Glenora.*

*Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania,  
Westminster Chambers, 5, Victoria-street, London, S.W., 3rd May, 1901.*

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I to-day sent you the following telegram:—

"Railway. Am assured present state of market most favourable, but Company cannot be floated now unless special Session will pass Extension Bill. I strongly recommend."

Mr. Brunlees and Mr. Fox called on me this morning and urged me to communicate with you on the subject. They assured me that Mr. F. V. Hornby, Secretary of the Union Bank of London, had expressed the opinion that this is a most favourable time for the flotation of the company, and they further stated they could not possibly attempt to float it unless the extension of time asked for is granted by Act of Parliament. It is under these circumstances I ventured to send you the above-mentioned cable.

I have, &c.

ALFRED DOBSON, *Agent-General.*

*The Honourable the Premier, Hobart, Tasmania.*

*Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania,  
Westminster Chambers, 5 Victoria-street,  
London, S.W., 3rd May, 1901.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received from the Railway Construction and General Development Co. (Tasmania), Limited, a cheque for £2000, being the eighth instalment on account of the construction of the Great Western Railway, and shall be glad if you will pay that amount to Mr. W. Harcourt Palmer. A telegram to this effect was despatched to you on the 30th ult.

I have, etc.,

ALFRED DOBSON, *Agent-General.*

*The Honourable the Premier, Hobart, Tasmania.*

Telegram to the Honourable the Premier, Hobart.

RAILWAY. Am assured present state of market most favourable, but company cannot be floated now unless special Session will pass Extension Bill. I strongly recommend that.

ALFRED DOBSON, *Agent-General.*  
4th May, 1901.

*Grand Hotel, Melbourne, 8th May, 1901.*

SIR,

REFERRING to the request made by the deputation which waited upon Ministers this morning, I have the honour to inform you that we have decided that Parliament will be summoned to meet on Tuesday, the 28th instant, the day to which it now stands prorogued. The Bill which the deputation asked for, namely, to extend the time for the completion of the construction of the Great Western Railway for two years, will be introduced by the Government on the first day of the Session.

I have, &c.

N. E. LEWIS, *Premier.*

W. A. GUESDON, *Esq., M.H.A., George Hotel, St. Kilda.*

TELEGRAM to the Honourable the Premier, Hobart.

Pay Harcourt Palmer £2000.

A. DOBSON, *Agent-General*.  
29-5-'01.

30th May, 1901.

SIR,  
I AM directed by the Honourable the Premier to inform you that the following cablegram has this day been received from the Agent-General in London:—

“Pay Harcourt Palmer £2000.”

The Honourable the Treasurer has been informed accordingly.

I have, &c.,

D. W. ADDISON, *Acting Secretary to the Premier*.

W. HARCOURT PALMER, *Esq.*, *c/o Messrs. Russell Young and Butler, Hobart*.

30th May, 1901.

SIR,  
I am directed by the Honourable the Premier to inform you that the following cablegram has this day been received from the Agent-General in London:—

“Pay Harcourt Palmer £2000.”

Mr. Harcourt Palmer has been notified accordingly.

I have, &c.,

D. W. ADDISON, *Acting Secretary to the Premier*.

*The Honourable the Treasurer.*

*Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania,  
Westminster Chambers, 5, Victoria-street, London, S.W., 31st May, 1901.*

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received from the Railway Construction and General Development Company (Tasmania) a cheque for £2000, being the 9th instalment on account of the construction of the Great Western Railway, and shall be glad if you will pay that amount to Mr. W. Harcourt Palmer. A telegram to this effect was despatched to you on the 29th instant.

I have, &c.

ALFRED DOBSON, *Agent-General*.

*The Honourable the Premier, &c., Hobart, Tasmania.*

Telegram to the Honourable the Premier Hobart.

Is Great Western Bill now law? Directors require official notification of.

A. DOBSON, *Agent-General*.  
3. 6. 1901.

Telegram to the Agent-General.

REFERRING to your telegram of 3rd June, Bill, extending time completion for three years, has received Royal Assent.

N. E. LEWIS, *Premier*.  
4. 6. 1901.

Telegram to the Honourable the Premier, Hobart.

PAY Grove £1000.

A. DOBSON, *Agent-General*.  
4. 6. 1901.

17th June, 1901.

SIR,  
I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have this day forwarded to you, under separate cover, six printed copies of correspondence which has taken place between the 15th February, 1900, and the 2nd April, 1901, with reference to the construction, &c., of the Great Western Railway.

I have, &c.

N. E. LEWIS, *Prem*

*Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania,  
Westminster Chambers, 5, Victoria-street, London, W.S., 5th July, 1901.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received from the Railway Construction and General Development Company (Tasmania) a cheque for £1000, being the 10th instalment on account of the construction of the Great Western Railway, and shall be glad if you will pay that amount to Mr. Frank Grove. A telegram to this effect was despatched to you on the 4th instant.

I have, &c.

ALFRED DOBSON, *Agent-General.*

*The Honourable the Premier, &c., Hobart, Tasmania.*

6th July, 1901.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Honourable the Premier to inform you that the following cablegram has been received from the Agent-General in London:—

“Pay Grove £1000.”

The Honourable the Treasurer has been instructed accordingly.

I have, &c.

D. W. ADDISON,  
*Acting Secretary to the Premier.*

FRANK GROVE, *Esq., Orient Hotel, Hobart.*

8th July, 1901.

THE Honourable the Treasurer is informed that the following cablegram has been received from the Agent-General in London:—

“Pay Grove £1000.”

N. E. LEWIS, *Premier.*

*The Honourable the Treasurer.*

*Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania,  
Westminster Chambers, 5, Victoria-street, London, S.W., 12th July, 1901.*

Great Western Railway (Tasmania).

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith, for the information of the Government, copy of a letter I have received from Mr. John Brunlees relative to the affairs of the Great Western Railway (Tasmania).

I have, &c.,

ALFRED DOBSON, *Agent-General.*

*The Hon. the Premier, &c., Hobart, Tasmania.*

Transmitted to the Hon. the Minister of Lands.

By direction,

D. W. ADDISON,  
*Acting Secretary to the Premier.*  
7.8.1901.

PERUSED.

E. MULCAHY.  
19.8.1901.

*Hon. Premier.*

12, *Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.,*  
12th July, 1901.

Great Western Railway of Tasmania.

SIR,

I THINK it is only due to the Government of Tasmania to keep them informed as to how matters stand with regard to the above scheme. On my arrival in England, I found it impossible to deal with matters until the Act for extending the time for the completion of the works was actually passed, and you are aware of the correspondence which took place which led to the Special Session, and the passing of the Extension Act.

Immediately on the receipt of the telegram from Mr. Palmer stating that the Act was passed, we set to work on the finances of the company to be formed for carrying out this project, for which we had as far as possible paved the way in anticipation of the Act being passed. Just as we were

completing our financial arrangements the Bank failures in America and Germany upset the money market in London to such an extent that we could not for the moment complete them.

To-day matters are a little better, and for the information of your Government I enclose the money market reports from to-day's *Times*, *The Standard*, and *Financial News*, which I think will convince you of the difficulties we have to face; but at the same time I can assure you that no effort is being lost to put this company in a position to actively proceed with the works at the earliest moment, and although the holiday season is approaching we are making arrangements with a view of flotation in the early autumn.

I am, &c.,

JOHN BRUNLEES.

*The Agent-General for Tasmania.*

*Tasmanian Great Western Railway and Electric Power Company,  
Care of Russell Young & Butler, Solicitors,  
Hobart, 5th August, 1901.*

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour, dated 1st August, 1901. I have since received the following cable from Mr. Brunlees, dated 3rd August:—

“In accordance with your telegram we will send money as requested to complete survey capital of the Company is not yet fixed the matter is now in the hands of financiers I rely upon you to obtain Government to consent stop all further expenditure pending completion of satisfactory financial arrangement when market improves.”

It is apparent that the London Board of our Company have not succeeded, up to the present, in floating the Great Western Railway Company on the larger capital, and that the portion of their present capital set aside for construction work in Tasmania is exhausted.

It appears that some months may elapse before the London money market will be sufficiently firm to enable the Company to be successfully floated, and it may, I think, be taken for granted that the London Board will find it difficult, perhaps impossible, to carry out their undertaking with your Government and provide for an expenditure of £2000 per month for an indefinite period. Presuming that such is the case, I shall be obliged if you will inform me whether your Government will consent to the following proposition, in the event of my obtaining from the London Board an authority to enter into such undertaking.

I should first like to explain that the present survey of the proposed route of the railway (only twenty miles of which remain to be completed) is a trial line for location, taken, as nearly as possible, on the actual position of the proposed centre-line, and gives such longitudinal section and details in plan as are sufficient to make a close approximation of the work to be encountered throughout the route. It will thus be seen that the work entailed in setting out the permanent centre-line, and in completing the permanent survey, is very greatly reduced.

My proposal is—

1. That I should submit to you an estimate of the cost of the permanent survey throughout the whole line: this, I may now state, would not exceed £7000.
2. That this amount should be lent to the Company by the Government from the £15,000 already voted for survey of a route to the West Coast, upon the Company depositing the plans already prepared, and agreeing to deposit the plans of the permanent survey month by month, as they are completed, with the Government.
3. That the Company be allowed to discontinue construction operations for the period of one year, that being the time that I estimate will be requisite to complete the survey.
4. That, in the event of flotation taking place before the expiration of the one year, the Company repay to the Government, with interest, the amount borrowed, and all plans and documents relating to the survey become the property of the Company.
5. In the event of the Company failing to float within the period stated, all plans, &c., of the survey be retained by the Government.
6. That the permanent survey be made by the Company's staff. (I may state that I am prepared to satisfy your Engineer-in-Chief that the plans already prepared are satisfactory, and that the work on permanent survey will be carried out in compliance with the Act.)

It will readily occur to you that, bearing in mind the very large expenditure already incurred by the syndicate for the purposes of construction survey, and reports of their engineers and geologists, every effort will be made by the Directors to accomplish the flotation of the Company as speedily as possible.

In reference to this letter, I shall be glad to wait on you at any time you name to-morrow (Tuesday).

I have, &c.,

FRANK GROVE,

*Engineer for Great Western Railway Company.*

*The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works, Hobart.*

Minister's Office,  
Department of Lands and Works.  
Hobart, 6th August, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours of yesterday's date, which has had the consideration of the Government this morning.

It is satisfactory to know that your Company will send money to keep the survey parties going, although allowed to discontinue construction work for a month.

The Government regret to hear that it may be some months before the Company can be successfully floated, and that it may be taken for granted that the London Board will find it difficult, perhaps impossible, to carry out their undertaking with the Government, and provide for an expenditure of £2000 per month for an indefinite period. I have to point out that your reference to the Company's undertaking is somewhat in error, as my previous letter to you will have indicated. An expenditure of £2000 per month was temporarily accepted by the Government as compliance with the obligation of the Company to begin and continue construction, but this was not for an "indefinite time." It was distinctly stated that this small expenditure would only be considered adequate for a few months, and not for an indefinite period.

Unfortunately, it happens that, now, about the time when it was expected the Company would be able to proceed with substantial work, it has to acknowledge its inability to even continue compliance with its agreement as to the smaller expenditure.

With regard to your proposals that the Government should lend to your Company a sum of £7000 to proceed with the work of survey, and should also allow the Company to discontinue operations for the period of one year, and the various other minor proposals in your letter, I have the honour to inform you that the Government has given full consideration to them, but cannot entertain them. As you are quite aware, the acceptance of such proposals, even if the Government approved of them, would involve fresh legislation in your Company's interests, and this the Government is not prepared to initiate, feeling that every assistance that the Company had a right to expect has been rendered by the past and present Governments on behalf of the Colony. We can only hope that with the arrival of Mr. Harcourt Palmer in London some improvement may be made in the Company's financial position, to enable it to proceed in a substantial manner with the work it has undertaken.

I have, &c.,

EDWARD MULCAHY,  
Minister of Lands and Works.

FRANK GROVE, Esq.,  
Engineer Great Western Railway Company,  
Hobart.

24th August, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

Re Great Western Railway.

REFERRING to the interview I had with you and other Members for Hobart yesterday afternoon, I have brought the matter of the Great Western Railway under the notice of my colleagues (with the exception of Mr. Collins, who left by mail train last night before I could see him), and have to say that we are anxious to avoid taking any action in the matter as a Ministry, but will be prepared to give favourable consideration, as individual Members, to a resolution embodying the principles indicated in the paper left with me when such resolution is moved in the House.

Yours faithfully,

N. E. LEWIS, Premier.

R. C. PATTERSON, Esq., M.H.A., Hobart.

Melbourne, 25th September, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE just received a copy of the Hobart *Mercury* of the 19th instant, and must express great surprise at many of the statements made by yourself and others in reference to the £10,000 deposited to secure the construction of the Tasmanian Great Western Railway.

I have the honour to inform you—

1st. The £10,000 does not belong to the Adelaide Company; it belongs, so far as the State of Tasmania is concerned, to me—the Adelaide Company has no interest whatever in the sum of £10,000.

2nd. Express written notice of this fact has been filed in your own office, in the office of the Treasurer, and in the Registry Offices in Tasmania; and the Ministry of Tasmania has always collected the interest on the £10,000 from the Bank, and paid the same direct to me.



- 3rd. The £10,000 has not been forfeited, and cannot be forfeited until the time for the completion of the railway expires. It is true that by Section 171 of the Act, the time at which the £10,000 could be forfeited was originally fixed at 26th November, 1901; but as this money was a deposit only to secure the construction of the Railway within the time limited for such construction, and as such time has been extended, the £10,000 cannot be forfeited until the expiration of such extended time.
- 4th. Both yourself and other members seem to confuse the forfeiture of the concession with the forfeiture of the £10,000. These are two different things, to be secured by different methods and at different times. Section 171 expressly states that the £10,000 is to be forfeited "as hereinafter mentioned."
- 5th. The owners of the £10,000 have never transferred their right to, or any interest in, the £10,000 to the Adelaide Company, and, *a fortiori*, the London Company (who are only assignees of the Adelaide Company) have no interest in the £10,000.
- 6th. The owners of the £10,000 will (even if it is eventually forfeited) have a right to the interest thereon until the time arrives at which it can be forfeited.

Please understand that I do not at present express any opinion as to whether the owners of the £10,000 will, or will not, consent to any part of it being devoted to the completion of the survey; it will be time enough to determine that question when a request is made to them. I am astounded that so complete a misunderstanding of the position should exist, and write to you to state facts only.

I am,  
Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
R. C. BAKER.

*The Honourable the Premier of Tasmania.*

22nd October, 1901

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, and regret that pressure of public business has prevented me from attending to it earlier.

In that letter you refer to the £10,000 deposited with the Treasurer to secure the construction of the Great Western Railway Company, and a report to certain statements made by me in reference thereto, as reported in the "*Mercury*" of the 11th ultimo.

I now forward you a copy of the "*Mercury*" of the 27th September, containing a short report of what I stated when the question came up for reconsideration, and also a copy of the Bill (1) as introduced into the House of Assembly; (2) as it was sent to the Legislative Council. You will see that Section 7 of the Bill was materially modified in Committee of the Assembly.

I have, &c.

N. E. LEWIS, *Premier.*

SIR RICHARD BAKER, K.C.M.G.,  
*Parliament House, Melbourne.*

*Morialta Chambers, Victoria Square West, Adelaide,*  
28th October, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 22nd October, with enclosures, and appreciate your courtesy in giving me the information contained therein, and

Have the honour to remain,  
Yours truly,

R. C. BAKER.

*The Honourable N. E. LEWIS, Premier of Tasmania,*  
*Hobart, Tasmania.*